

Compiled and Produced by
The City of San Antonio Office of Sustainability
To submit content or suggestions, contact Robin Harvey:
Robin.Harvey@sanantonio.gov
210-667-6402



Director's Message

It's springtime in San Antonio and that means it's time to go outside, enjoy our natural areas and get fit! Check out a variety of opportunities from our partners to enjoy San Antonio's beautiful weather. Get excited for signature San Antonio sustainable events like Síclovía, Earth Day and Fresh Air Friday in the coming weeks.

Our department, like the warming weather, is changing. As you may know, I will be leaving my position as Director of the Office of Sustainability this month and moving within COSA to the Fire Department. My experience with this office has been inspiring and invaluable; I look forward to keeping abreast of the City's sustainable accomplishments from afar.

I am so pleased to announce the arrival of two new OS staff members: our new DFA, Marc Castro and our new Chief Sustainability Officer, Doug Melnick. Read about Mr. Melnick and Mr. Castro to the right and below.

Another bit of happy news: in June I am due to bring two daughters into the world! As my life changes I will surely continue to keep this office and San Antonio sustainability dear to my heart. Now get outside and enjoy your beautiful, sustainable city!

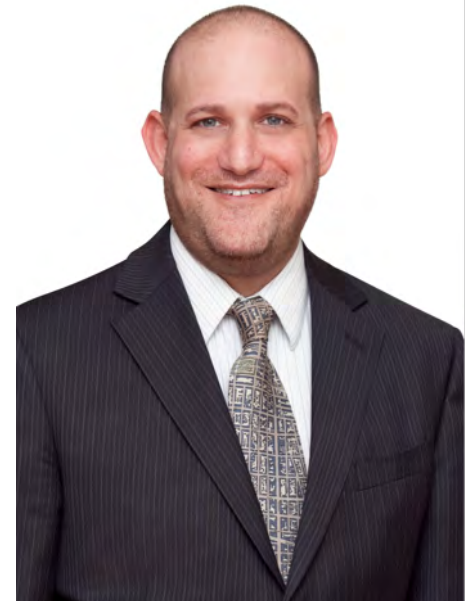
For a sustainable future,
Mary Hammer



New in Town: Introducing Doug Melnick, Chief Sustainability Officer

On March 17th the City of San Antonio's Office of Sustainability welcomes its new Chief Sustainability Officer, Doug Melnick. Mr. Melnick comes from the City of Albany, New York's Mayor's Office of Energy and Sustainability where he has been director since 2010. He has also been the City of Albany's Director of Planning since 2007. Mr. Melnick has previously served as the Executive Director of the Albany County Land Conservancy and as an Urban Planner with the Capital District Community Gardens. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners, an accredited CNU Professional, and a National Charrette Institute Certified Facilitator.

Mr. Melnick is excited to face the challenges and joys that come with working in a large, growing city like San Antonio. Look out for Doug as he starts to make his green mark on our city!



And introducing Marc Castro, Dept Fiscal Administrator

It is our pleasure to inform you that we have also hired a new Department Fiscal Administrator, Marc Castro, for the Office of Sustainability. Mr. Castro has worked for the City for ten years and has served in various capacities and departments including the Office of Management & Budget, the Office of Innovation and Reform, Human Resources and Development Services. Prior to his work with the City, Mr. Castro

was an Analyst with Bexar County. Mr. Castro has a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Texas at San Antonio.

Contact Mr. Castro at
(210) 207-0257
marc.castro@sanantonio.gov

Call for Nominations!

6th Annual Green Building Awards

The City of San Antonio's Office of Sustainability is now accepting nominations for the sixth annual Green Building Awards, an event that showcases breakthroughs and emerging technologies in the field of green building. The deadline for nominations is Friday, March 28, 2014.

The awards will feature categories for new construction and retrofit projects, in both residential and commercial construction. This year's awards will feature new categories for "Preeminent Green" project and "Organizational Green Practitioner" to highlight organizations and companies that have

significantly influenced the number of green projects in San Antonio. The City has also broadened the timeframe of eligible projects to include any structure built between January 1, 2010 and December 31, 2013.

In addition, coinciding with the Department of Energy's designation of San Antonio as a "Solar America City," the Bill Sinkin Solar Award will be given to a nominee who has made significant contributions in solar energy.

Winners will be announced at a special awards ceremony on Friday, June 20, 2014 at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, 200 E. Market. St.

Nomination forms are available:
on COSA's website
sanantonio.gov/sustainability

on Build San Antonio Green's website
[buildsagreen.org/
uncategorized/3348/](http://buildsagreen.org/uncategorized/3348/)

For more information on the Green Building Awards contact

Liza Meyer

(210) 207-1449

liza.meyer@sanantonio.gov



Come Celebrate Earth Day 2014

The Earth Day Committee, in partnership with the City of San Antonio, will hold its 11th annual Earth Day event on Saturday, April 12, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Woodlawn Lake Park, 1103 Cincinnati. This event was created to share and educate the community on the value and respect we should give our planet. The event will also feature the first "Green Retiree Community Zone" featuring specialized information for Senior wellness and healthy living.

The event kicks off with a 5K run/family walk at 7:30 a.m. and a Senior Walk at 8:30 a.m. The Earth Day event will also include a tree adoption by CPS Energy, a native plant giveaway by the San Antonio Water System, entertainment, food (vegetarian), beverage booths and a demonstration on various healthy lifestyle, and conservation ideas and techniques. Admission is free for this fun-filled, family-friendly event!

EARTH DAY 2014
Saturday, April 12
9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Woodlawn Lake Park
1103 Cincinnati
Admission is Free!
(210) 207-1449

To participate in the 5K run/walk contact
John Purnell
(210) 385-8248
johnny.purnell@yahoo.com

For more information on the event
Liza Meyer
(210) 207-1449
liza.meyer@sanantonio.gov

Springtime: Time to Ride!

Síclovía

The YMCA of Greater San Antonio's annual community event, Síclovía, provides a space for San Antonians of all ages to play in the streets. This year the event has moved to the South Side, the open streets beginning at Mission Concepción and continuing north into the Southtown neighborhood. Families are encouraged to use the open, car-less streets on March 30th from 11am to 4pm to bike and play, starting habits of

For more information on Síclovía go to siclovía.org

EcoRide

Enjoy Síclovía on March 30th with Build San Antonio Green, the San Antonio Housing Authority, Bike World and The Renewable Republic by joining the EcoRide team. Wear a green shirt and meet at the SAHA headquarters, 818 S. Flores, at 1pm to join the ride, enjoy the scavenger hunt, or both. There will be an after party with live music at The Renewable Republic at 4pm.

Join the Ecoride Facebook Event at facebook.com/events/679529332085767

Sicloverde

Join The Green Spaces Alliance of South Texas on April 5th for an exclusive bike ride as we tour up to 8 community gardens during our second annual SicloVerde! Several tour options will be offered including a 14-mile group tour, a shorter tour to include 4 amazing gardens, and a self-guided tour.

Participants will gather at the first garden, Eastside Sprouts Community Garden (1023 N Pine, 78202) at 7:30am. They will then travel in groups from garden to garden, visiting with gardeners and taking part in fun garden-themed activities before completing the loop. Sicloverde is a fundraising event; all proceeds benefit community gardens in the San Antonio area. Route maps, t-shirts and bags of sponsored gifts will be provided to registered participants.

\$15 registration is required. All participants must wear safety helmets. Children under 12 must ride tandem with an adult. Children riding the long route must be riding a tandem bicycle.

Interested in sponsoring, volunteering at or participating in Sicloverde? greensatx.org/sicloverde

For more information on bicycle events and news in the region, visit the San Antonio Bikes website or facebook fan page sanantonio.gov/sabikes

facebook.com/pages/San-Antonio-Bikes/114934630825



Texas Trails & Active Transportation Conference

March 26-28, 2014 • Fort Worth, TX

Involved with San Antonio trails or active transportation initiatives? Register for the Texas Trails & Active Transportation Conference, taking place in Fort Worth March 26-28.

To register and find more information go to texastrails.biketexas.org/2014

Save the Dates:

Screening of "Queen of the Sun: What Are the Bees Telling Us?"
March 18th, 6:30pm
Witte Museum

Screening of "Flow"
March 26th, 6:30pm
Lion's Field Adult Center

Texas Trails & Active Transportation Conference
March 26-28th
Fort Worth

Síclovía
March 30th, 11am-4pm
Mission Concepción/ Southtown

Síclovía: EcoRide
March 30th, 1pm
SAHA, 818 S. Flores

Fresh Air Friday
April 4th, 11:30am-1pm
Main Plaza

Sicloverde
April 5th, 7:30am-12:30pm
1023 N. Pine
\$15 Registration

Earth Day 2014
April 12
Woodlawn Lake Park

Alamo Sierra Club Events

Spring Outings and Two Film Screenings

Join the Alamo Sierra Club at the Witte Museum on March 18th to view "Queen of the Sun: What Are the Bees Telling Us?" This award-winning 2011 documentary film focuses on the complex issue of disappearing and dying bees from Colony Collapse Disorder. Bees pollinate plants, thus providing a valuable service. Learn more about the possible causes of the disappearing bees and the solutions. Are we doing the best we can to protect the bees so that they can continue to pollinate plants?

Join us at Lion's Field Adult Center on March 26th for a screening of "Flow." This award-winning 2008 film discusses the world's dwindling water supply and the role that greed plays in it.

It concentrates on the business of privatization of water infrastructure which prioritizes profits over availability of clean water. Can anyone really own water, our most precious natural resource?

The Alamo Sierra Club also hosts outings, the perfect way to enjoy this beautiful spring weather! Explore parks and green spaces throughout South Texas with fellow greenies.

For more information on Alamo Sierra Club events visit
texas.sierraclub.org/alamo/events

For more information on Flow, the film
flowthefilm.com

For more information on Alamo Sierra Club outings visit
meetup.com/Alamo-Sierra-Club-Outings



FRESH AIR FRIDAY
a fun, free, informative event to bring clean air to light
April 4: 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Main Plaza, San Antonio (Commerce and Main)

Come enjoy some fresh air on the plaza!
Hosted by the Alamo Area Council of Governments and the City of San Antonio